

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

Friday, September 1, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Each Labor Day, my family and I join with thousands of other families from around Michigan to run and to walk across the Mackinac Bridge.

Every year it makes me proud to see this parade of Michigan values – family, community, tradition – uniting on the bridge that unites our two peninsulas.

The Mackinac Bridge is – for me – a symbol of another great Michigan value: the value of hard work.

We are blessed in Michigan with the nation's greatest workforce. We have the engineers who design our state-of-the-art automobiles and the workers who build them; we have the scientists who are designing the next lifesaving drug and researchers who are developing alternative energy sources and new technologies. We have great ironworkers who built the Mighty Mac and Detroit's Ambassador Bridge and great teachers who are educating Michigan's next workforce.

Every year, we salute those contributions of labor.

But every day in state government, we pay tribute to our workforce, by uplifting workers and protecting their families.

Employees across state government are working to protect our children, keep our streets safe, educate our kids, provide health care to those in need, protect consumers at the gas pump, train the out-of-work for available jobs and so much more.

And my comprehensive economic plan is working too, diversifying the economy to create thousands of new, high-paying jobs, making our business climate attractive to companies around the globe and accelerating road work and other projects to create thousands of jobs today.

Because the best way to celebrate Labor Day is to ensure that workers across our state have good jobs to support their families.

That's why on October 1 low-wage workers will see their hourly wage go from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.95 an hour. As a second significant boost to those low-wage workers we're adopting in Michigan an Earned Income Tax Credit which will ultimately mean up to an additional \$880 per year in the pockets of 600,000 working families.

And that's also why I'm fighting to guarantee every student in Michigan a \$4,000 scholarship for education beyond high school.

So as families head up north for the Bridge Walk or out to picnics across the state, I want to take this opportunity to thank our outstanding state employees and incredible Michigan workforce for the amazing work you do everyday.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day and thank you for listening.